



**January 13, 2003
Sequoia National Park**



**Snowshoeing through
the redwoods**





January 13, 2003
Sequoia National Park



February 8, 2003
"Home Gardening"
Trip to Cambria



Ron's Nursery, Grover Beach





**Garden wonderland at
Ron's Nursery**



**Garden Gallery,
Morro Bay**



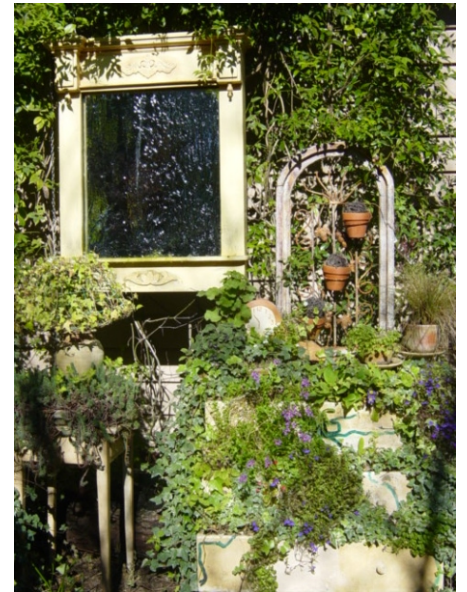


Wine and cheese at The Bluebird Inn, Cambria



Dinner at Robbin's





**Gardens at
Cambria Pines Lodge**



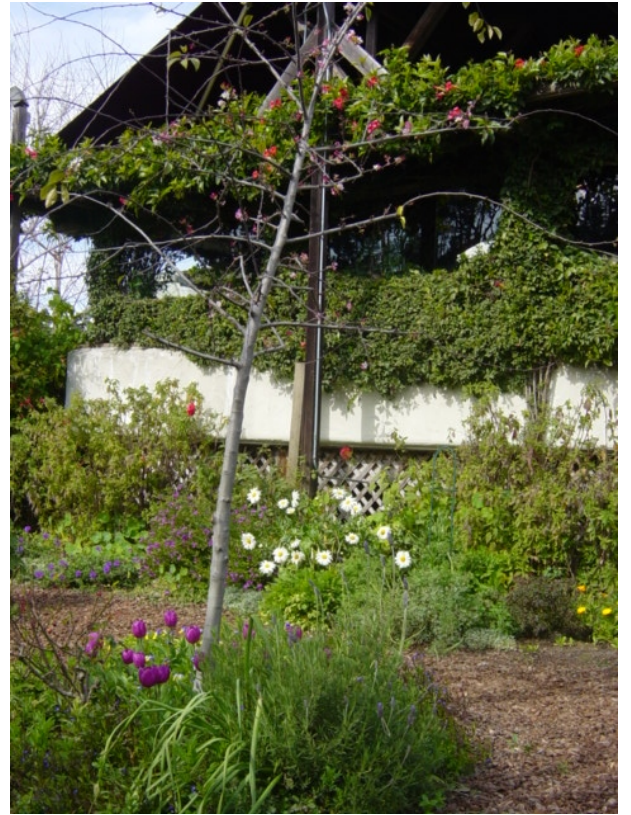
Cambria Nursery





February 10, 2003
Cambria





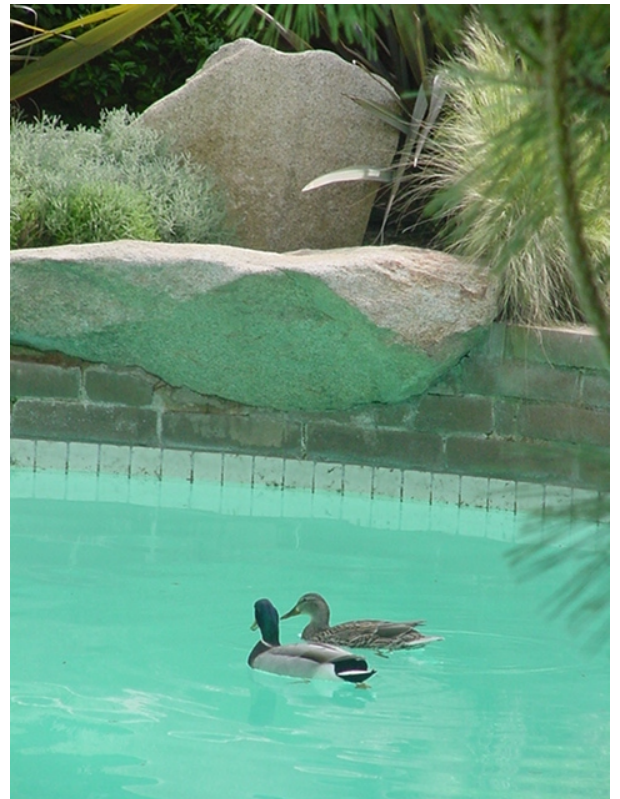
Parkfield, earthquake capitol!



April 2003



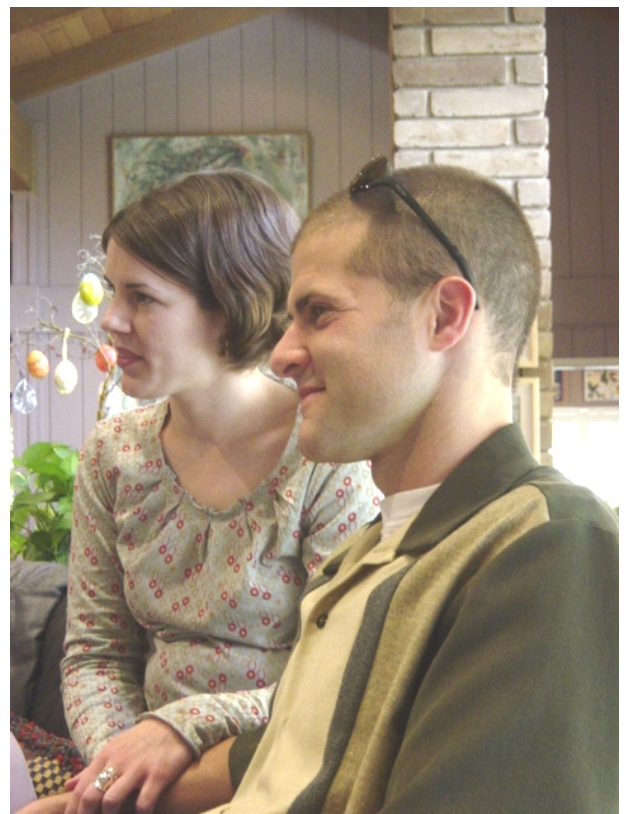
A pair of mallards
decided they liked
our swimming
pool!



**Easter
April 20, 2003**



Marc and Amanda



Elizabeth and Ivy





Ivy and Linda



After an early dinner, we hunted for our Easter baskets and presents



The annual Easter Egg Obstacle Race is underway!

Marc braves the Bridge of Terror

Catherine approaches the maze



Alexis scores a 'basket in one' at the egg catapult!



Ivy went for broke at the egg catapult ... and broke it!



**As usual, last place
(and the loser's prize)
went to Ivy. We honored
her with the traditional
'Loser's Salute'.**





May 2, 2003 At the Rossi garden, the Master Gardeners prepare for the garden tour



Storyboards chronicling the development of the garden from 1999 to 2003



Table set with "Duck Soup"





**Mali Mama in "junkyard"
next to front door**

Master Gardeners break for lunch



**Table set for the rain with
"Pennies From Heaven"**





Outdoor painting of "Sharon" by Sharon



Outdoor painting of "Alexis" peeking through screen



**Visiting the Russell garden
on the Master Gardener Tour**



**Visiting the
Cranch-Moats garden**



**Visiting the Fanucchi farm on the
Master Gardener Tour**





May 3, 2003
Strong turnout for the Master Gardener
Tour, even in the rain.



Dry and warm, Sharon, Alexis and friends
watch the crowds tour the garden.





Catherine and Lisa share an umbrella



Alexis posed in front of "Alexis"



Plumber repairs our sump pump during tour



Ms. Sharon Rossi
2133 W. Alluvial Ave.
Fresno, CA 93711

Nicole Doetsch
C/O Mrs. O'Rourke
Prince of Peace School
135 Milwaukee Ave.
Lake Villa, IL 60046

May 30, 2003

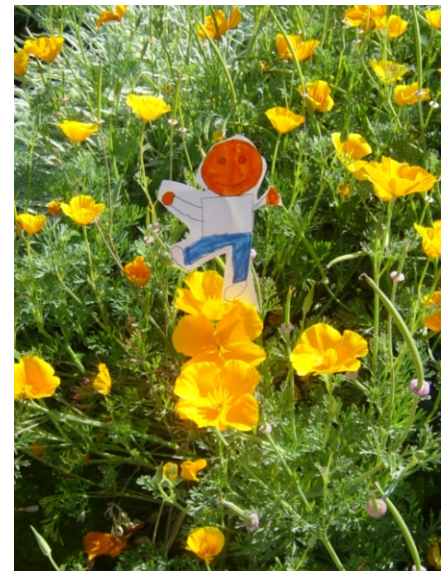
Dear Nicole,



Flat Stanley arrived in Fresno, CA on Friday, May 23. That was a very busy day. In the photograph above, Flat Stanley is pointing to Fresno on the map of California. Fresno is in the very center of California.



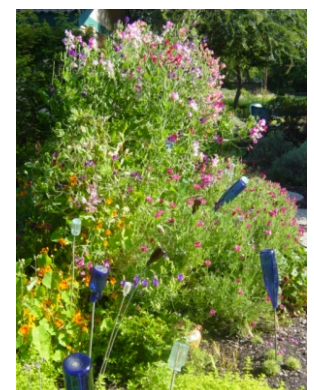
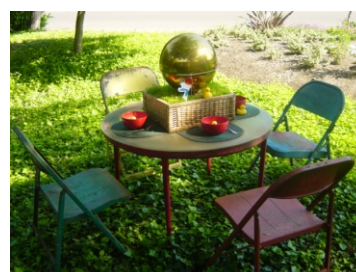
Our first activity of Friday morning was to address forty invitations to a birthday party to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio on June 22. The birthday party is for Uncle Gary's sister, Janet Rossi.



After that, Flat Stanley helped me in the garden. Above is a photograph of FS dancing on California poppies. These orange poppies are the state flower of California. FS also enjoyed walking on the sweet peas and green tomatoes.



I have some unusual things in my garden. I have a painting of me by me on one outside wall of my house. I have many colored bottles on sticks that shine in the sun. I also have a table in the garden set with yellow ducks floating in red bowls. I call this "Duck Soup".



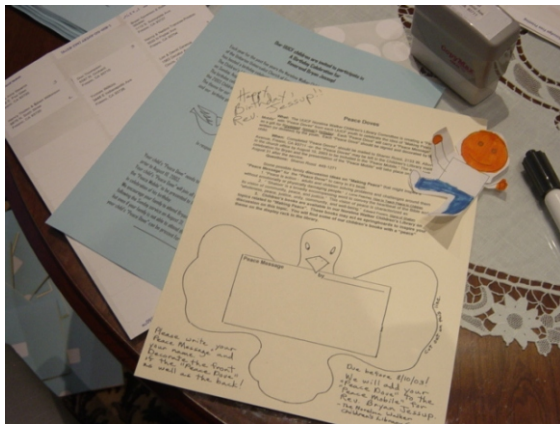
My daughter Alexis was visiting us for a few days. Alexis was getting ready to leave on a car trip around the USA.

When Alexis woke up, she wanted to eat Chinese food, so we drove to China Bistro to have lunch. This restaurant is next door to a children's bookstore. I have bought many books for you at this bookstore, Nicole.



After lunch we drove to Maaco. Alexis had left her white car there to be painted black! Alexis is going to decorate her car for her road trip across the USA.

In the afternoon FS and I drove to H&E Nursery. I spend a lot of time in nurseries. I love plants, and it seems like I always need something for my garden.



Before dinner, FS helped me address a mailing to each of the children who attend my church. The children are writing peace messages and decorating peace doves. We will assemble all of the peace doves into a mobile as a birthday present for our minister.

My son Marc came over to my house later and helped Alexis make dinner.



While we were waiting for dinner, FS and I went into my art studio to tidy up.

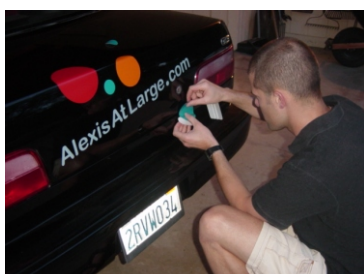
In the evening, FS and I went to a "Teacher's Tea" at my church. This was a party for the people who teach religious education.





On Saturday, May 24, Flat Stanley and I got up early and gardened for a few hours. After that, we drove to my favorite grocery store, Whole Foods. FS loved the produce section. Most of the fruits and vegetables you see here are grown near Fresno.

Later in the day, Marc came to my house and we started to decorate Alexis' car. In these photos, you see Marc applying vinyl letters to the car. The letters spell the Internet address for Alexis' website. You can visit this website, "AlexisAtLarge.com" to follow your cousin's trip across the USA.



In the evening, Marc, Alexis and I cut out dozens of vinyl circles to decorate the car. We began to put the circles on the car, but it got too dark to finish.



On Sunday, May 25, Amanda came to my house to help us finish decorating Alexis' car. Amanda is Marc's girlfriend. In this photo, Amanda is pretending to take a bite of Flat Stanley's head!



It took a long time to tape all those circles on the car before we could glue them in place. This is a photo of the hood of Alexis' car. Doesn't it look great?





Just as we completed the decoration of Alexis' car, my friends Ivy and Linda came over to see the car and look at Alexis' website.

In these photos, Flat Stanley is walking on *Rosa californicus*, which is the only rose native to California. FS also liked taking a dip in the birdbath with my accordion-playing rat.



In the late afternoon, I needed to go to a meeting at church, and FS decided to stay at home in the garden.



On Monday, May 26, Flat Stanley and I got up early again to do some gardening before it got too hot. Since it was Memorial Day, a holiday, Alexis and I met our friends Ken and Viv Shinkawa at Imperial Gardens restaurant for Dim Sum. Viv was born in Hong Kong, which is in China, so I knew Viv would choose a great restaurant for Chinese food. We had a great time!

In this photo, Viv, Ken and Alexis are standing by the AlexisAtLarge.com car. They wished Alexis a safe and happy trip.



We had so much to do to get ready for Alexis' trip, that we also ate dinner out at California Pizza Kitchen.



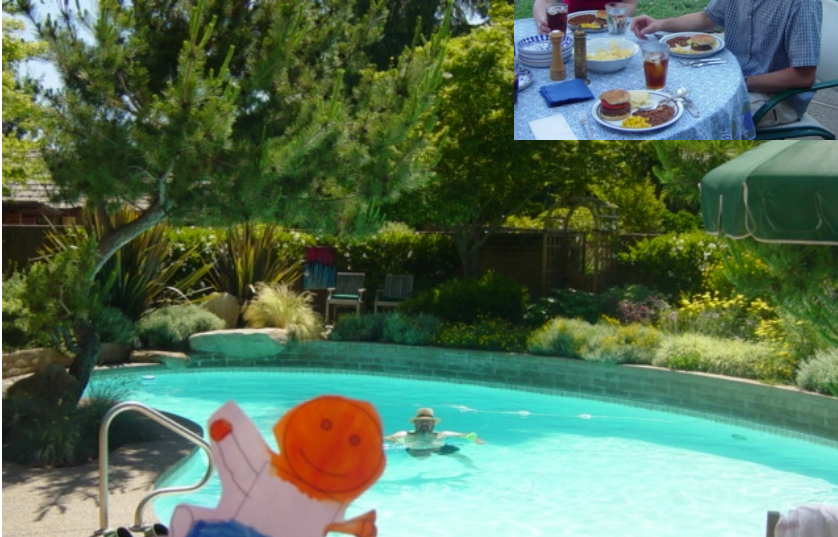
Uncle Gary had been working at our piano store in Pacific Grove, California over Memorial Day weekend. He finally came home Monday night.



On Tuesday, May 27, Alexis, Uncle Gary and I drove to nearby Clovis, California to have breakfast at the Rodeo Coffee Shop. This is Uncle Gary's favorite place to have breakfast. While we were in Clovis, we also visited Miller Clark Nursery.



It was a hot day, so Uncle Gary and Flat Stanley took a swim in our backyard pool. In the evening, Uncle Gary grilled hamburgers and we had a going away party for Alexis.



On Wednesday, May 28, I had a dental appointment in the morning but FS and I returned home in time to say goodbye to Alexis. Alexis was driving to Los Angeles to visit a friend from high school named Dave. Dave is a stockbroker and he has a pet chimpanzee. I know Alexis is going to have a great trip. Don't forget, Nicole, Alexis will be visiting you this summer in Round Lake Beach.



On Thursday, May 29, FS and I needed to go to work. These are photos of our store in Fresno, California Piano. I am standing in front of three paintings I made for the store. These paintings are called "Three Jazz Pianos". In the second photo, FS is posing in front of California Piano.



I enjoyed having Flat Stanley visiting us in California this past week. I hope that you also, Nicole, will have a chance to visit us in California soon.

Love,
Aunt Sharon



**Tuesday, June 17
Sharon, Nicole,
Kristine and
Mom, Sandy,
Kevin and Gary
enjoying frozen
custard at Culver's,
near Tom & Sandy's
home in Round
Lake Beach**



Model home in the Doetsch's new subdivision





Arcade fun at the mall

Thursday, June 19
Breakfast at Walker Bros. in Buffalo Grove





**Friday, June 20
Breakfast at Frisch's with Shawna,
Anand and Elizabeth.**



Playing with the twins





**June 20
At the Rossi home with Sage,
Solana, Sophia and Maya**



**"One Grecian Urn"
with the original
cast of Alexis,
Tina, Monica and
Janet ... then
the reprise 25
years later with
Maya, Sage and
Solana!**



Saturday, June 21
The Burns family at Raj & Shawna's





Chris, Nathan & Sara learn how to play bocce



Sunday, June 22 - Janet's birthday celebration!





**The Hat Parade!
Janet judged the
best hat of the day.**

**And the winner
was Ray!**



Time to open presents





**Gary, Vince, Dean,
Nick, Rosalie and
Janet with their
stuffed bears made
by Bettie from
some of Mom's
favorite blouses.**



Monday, June 23
A day at the Cincinnati Zoo



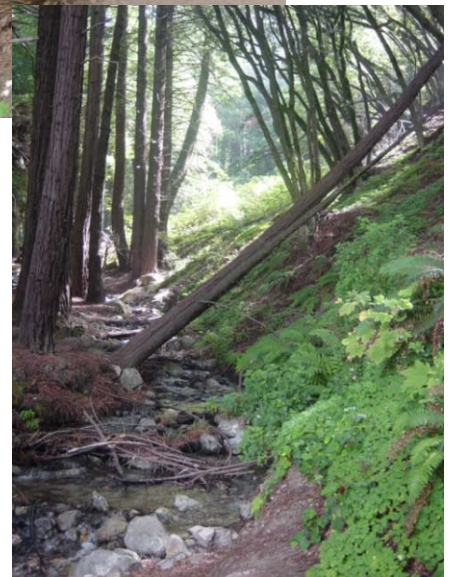


No visit to Cincinnati is complete with Skyline!

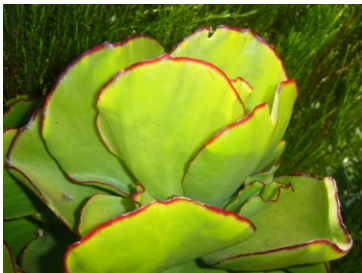




July 4, 2003
Big Sur



Lunch at Nepenthe



**July 27, 2003
Katherin McCoy,
Amanda's mother,
visits with us in Fresno**





August 9, 2003
Potluck lunch with "Home Gardening" group



August 17, 2003
Linda and granddaughter Hannah play, while Ken takes a nap



August 29, 2003
Alexis prepared a "Bon Voyage" dinner party





Sharon prepared for the
“Home Gardening” bulb sale



Celebration of Rev. Jessup's birthday
and presentation of the Peace Mobile



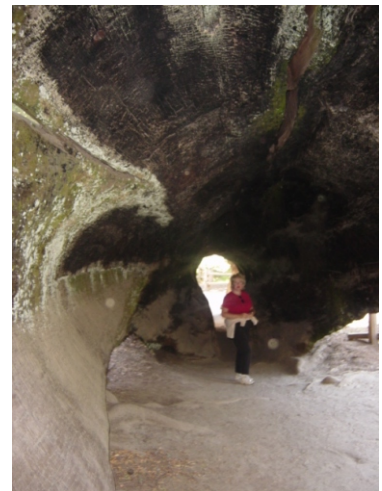


**August 31, 2003
Alexis and her friends
celebrate Labor Day
together**

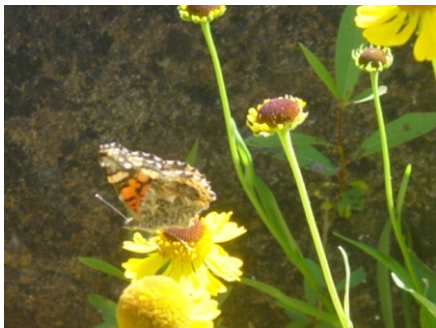




**September 15, 2003
Giant redwoods in
Sequoia Nat'l Park**

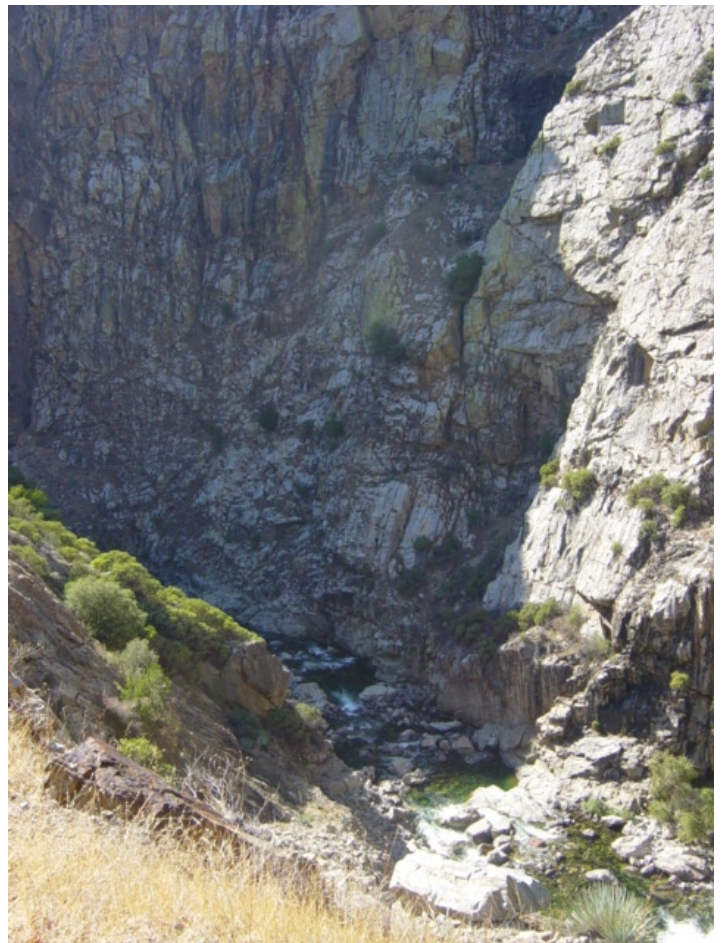


**Kings Canyon National Park
Grizzly Falls**





Kings Canyon National Park



September 12 to 14, 2003
The Pinto family visits Fresno



Painting and swimming
... a great way to spend
the weekend!



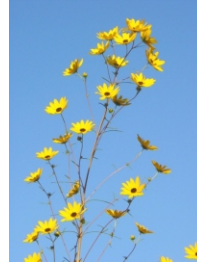


A treasure hunt in Sharon's garden





**Sharon and Gary perform
“The Jazz Fly” for
an attentive
Pinto audience!**



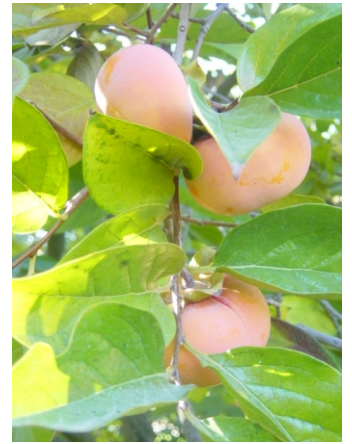
**October 6, 2003
Mexican Sunflower**

**October 13, 2003
Casa de Fruta**



October 13, 2003
Watsonville
and Aptos





November 16, 2003
A crisp fall day in Sharon's garden





**Celebrating Marc's 34th birthday
with a game of bocce at the park**

November 27, 2003
Thanksgiving



**November 9, 2003
Celebrating
Domenick Rossi's
first birthday at
Tony & Erica's
home in Tracy, CA.**



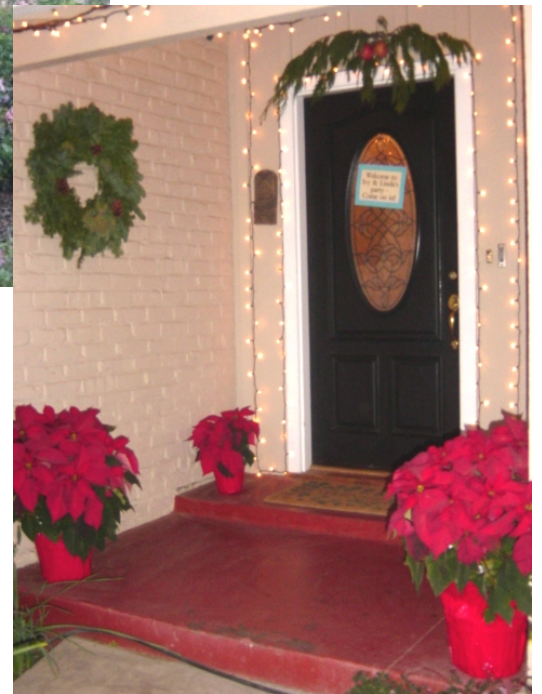






November 10, 2003
Having fun at
the mall





**December 3, 2003
Ivy & Linda's party**



December 3, 2003
Decorations in place







December 9, 2003
At the Pinto home for Joelle's birthday
and an early Christmas





**Sharon, Joseph,
Frank, Petrina,
Maria and Joelle**



December 13, 2003
Home Gardening members
decorating the church for Christmas





**December 19, 2003
Baking cookies
for Christmas**





Rehearsing for Christmas eve





**December 24, 2003
Performing at church**



December 24, 2003
Performing at church





December 25, 2003



Time to open presents!







December 25, 2003







**December 26, 2003
Ken & Betty visited for
dinner and games**

